Emission Reduction Techniques (ERTs)

Contaminants from open outdoor fires can affect air quality. The following ERTs are some suggested methods of reducing the emissions from agricultural burning.

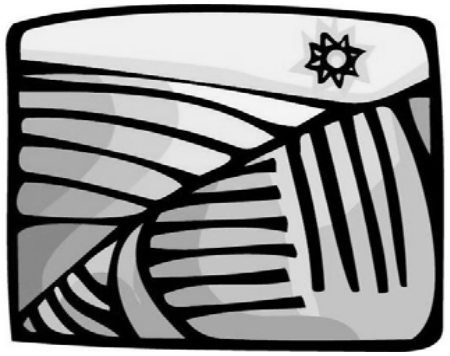
- Prevent the fire from spreading by lining the outside area of the burn with fire retardant foam or water;
- Use a backfire (burn against the wind) to prevent spread when burning grasses;
- Allow materials to completely dry before burning;
- Pile the materials to be burned;
- Construct piles under dry soil conditions or use hand piling methods to minimize the soil content of piles;
- Extinguish smoldering burns;
- Burn before there will be precipitation;
- Use an air curtain destructor that meets state or local requirements;
- Use alternatives to agricultural burning.

This brochure is provided by the Arizona Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Consultation & Training Program and made possible through ADEQ federal grant funding.

Disclaimer
This document is for informational purposes only. Please refer to your local fire control authority.

This document is available in alternate formats by contacting the agency's ADA Coordinator at (602) 542-4316 (Voice) or 1-800-367-3839 (TTY Relay)

Agricultural Burning



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Agricultural burning is the burning of vegetative materials from crop or livestock production for purposes of weed control, waste disposal, disease and pest prevention or site preparation.

In Arizona, agricultural burns are commonly conducted to remove crop residue and control weeds for production of wheat, bermuda grass, jojoba, citrus, and various other commodities.

Agricultural burning affects air quality. Agricultural burning can release pollutants such as particulate matter into the air. Particulate matter (PM10), are microscopic particles of soot, dust and liquid that contribute to haze and reduce visibility. For many people, PM10 pollution may aggravate the lungs, increase asthma attacks and reduce the body's ability to fight infections.

In order to reduce the possible harmful effects of agricultural burning it is important to develop and practice environmental and safety procedures. The rules for agricultural burning found under the Arizona Administrative Code Title 18 (A.A.C. R18-2-602), have recently been revised to give clear instructions on how to lawfully conduct open burning.

Open Burning Permits

Persons conducting agricultural burns are required to obtain an **Open Burning Permit**, except when the fires are used in orchard heaters for frost protection or for branding livestock. Revised rule R18-2-602 requires that a copy of the Open Burn Permit be on-site during an agricultural burn.

Open Burning Permits can be obtained by submitting an application to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) or delegated authority. The permit will detail the conditions under which burning is allowed. Agricultural burning must always be conducted in compliance with the terms and provisions of the Open Burning Permit.

For information on how to apply for an Open Burning Permit you can contact the following agencies.

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
602-771-2338

Maricopa County Environmental Services
602-506-6734

Pima Department of Environmental Quality
520-740-3340

Pinal County Air Quality Department
520-866-6929

Required notification and reporting

Persons conducting an open burn must notify the local fire control authority before each burn. If a local service provider does not exist, the person must notify the state forester at the Arizona State Land Department dispatch at (602) 255-4052.

Open burning requires that a record of each burn be kept that includes:

- legal description of where the open burning was conducted;
- date when burning was conducted;
- type of material burned (grass, wheat, brush, land);
- quantity of material (acres, pile size, weight);
- type of fire construction such as pile, pit or broadcast and;
- type of Emission Reduction Techniques (ERTs) used.